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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/564,117

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Marcus Guzmann

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EXAMINER

JACOBSON, MICHELE LYNN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1794

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/06/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/564,117	Applicant(s) GUZMANN ET AL.	
	Examiner MICHELE JACOBSON	Art Unit 1794	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 April 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 19, 25-27, 29, 33, 34 and 36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 19, 25-27, 29, 33, 34 and 36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 4/27/09 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 19, 20, 25-27, 29, 33, 34 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Duffield et al. WO 01/36290 and Waeschenbach et al. WO 00/06688, U.S. Patent No. 6,800,598 used herein for reference (hereafter referred to as Waeschenbach and Chun et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,133,892 (hereafter referred to as Chun).

4. Duffield teaches rigid water soluble containers comprising polyvinyl alcohol (PVOH) that may be utilized to deliver detergents, such as dishwashing compositions

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into aqueous environments. (pg. 8, lines 8-14) The container recited comprises a self supporting receptacle part and a closure part formed of a water soluble polymer wherein the closure part dissolves before the receptacle part. (pg. 8, lines 16-24) In one embodiment, the PVOH material is recited to be modified to dissolve at different rates under different conditions including the pH of the aqueous medium. (pg. 12, lines 8-11) The closure part of the container may be made of the same material but thinner than the rest of the container such that it dissolves first, or may be made of a material with higher solubility than the rest of the container. (pg. 16, line 30-pg. 17, line 2) Duffield also discloses that the container may be configured to have more than one compartment. (see Fig. 4)

5. Duffield is silent regarding what PVOH materials that are sensitive to pH would be useful for the invention and the disposition of a wax layer over the closure.

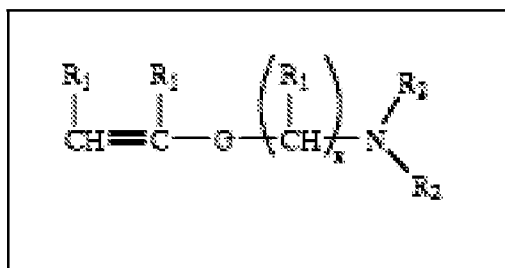
6. Waeschenbach teaches a composition for coating a detergent for delayed release within a wash cycle. The composition disclosed can incorporate a polymer such as PVOH and is sensitive to the pH of the surrounding environment. (Col 5, lines 25-28) "In a preferred embodiment of the invention the envelope incorporates at least one compound which for the concentration of the specific compound at the end of the main cleaning cycle of the dishwashing machine is not or is only slightly soluble and at the concentration of the specific compound in the clear rinsing cycle has such an adequate solubility that in the clear rinsing cycle it is so substantially dissolved or detached from the core or cores that an at least partial escape of the core material into the clear rinsing cycle medium is possible.

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7. Preferably the solubility of the compound increases with decreasing OH^- ionic concentration and therefore decreasing pH-value in the surrounding medium. In particularly preferred manner the compound at a pH-value above 10 has little or no solubility and at a pH-value below 9 has an adequate solubility to ensure a substantially complete dissolving or detachment from the core or cores in the clear rinsing cycle, so that an at least partial escape of the core material into the clear rinsing cycle medium is possible.

8. Preferably the compound incorporates a polymer, preferably a pH-sensitive polymer, which comprises at least one repeat unit, which has at least one basic function, which is not part of the polymer backbone chain. In a preferred embodiment the polymer comprises at least one repeat unit, which is based on a compound selected from the group comprising vinyl alcohol derivatives, acrylates or alkyl acrylates, which have said basic function.

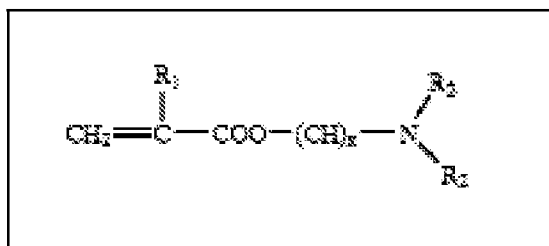
9. According to the invention the polymer is a carbohydrate functionalized with said basic function. The aforementioned basic function is preferably an amine and in particularly preferred form a secondary or tertiary amine. In a preferred alternative the repeat unit is based on a compound with the following formula III:



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in which G is a linking group selected from —COO— , —OCO— , —CONH— , NHCO— , —NHCONH— , —NHCOO— , —OCONH— or —OCOO— , R_1 , independently of one another, is hydrogen or an alkyl group with 1 to 3 carbon atoms, R_2 independently of one another, hydrogen or an alkyl group with 1 to 5 carbon atoms and x is an integer from 1 to 6.

Preferably the repeat unit is based on a compound with the following formula IV:



in which R_1 , independently of one another, is hydrogen or an alkyl group with 1 to 3 carbon atoms, R_2 , independently of one another, is hydrogen or an alkyl group with 1 to 5 carbon atoms and x is an integer from 1 to 6. (Col. 5 line 15-Col. 6, line 33)

10. Both Duffield and Waeschenbach are directed towards compact systems for dispensing dishwashing detergent by means of the dissolution of a protective layer surrounding the detergent. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have substituted the known element of the pH sensitive PVOH composition recited by Waeschenbach for the pH sensitive PVOH composition recited by Duffield to obtain the predictable result of producing a detergent container that has solubility under pH conditions of less than pH=10.

11. Duffield and Waeschenbach are silent regarding coating the detergent containers and tablets recited with wax.

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12. Chun teaches a dishwashing detergent tablet that releases various ingredients sequentially. (Col. 1, lines 6-12) Chun also discloses that it is beneficial to coat the barrier layers that provide the sequential release of the detergent with wax in order to increase the storage stability of the tablet. (Col. 9, lines 24-27)

13. Chun, Duffield and Waeschenbach are all directed towards dishwashing detergent dispersal systems comprising water soluble components that dispense their components under specific conditions. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have coated the container as taught by Duffield produced from pH sensitive PVOH composition of Waeschenbach (which is the same as that claimed by applicant in claim 1) with wax as taught by Chun in order to obtain the benefit of increasing the storage stability of the container. This obvious modification of the invention produced by the combination of Duffield and Waeschenbach would have been the same as that claimed by applicant in claims 1-5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 19, 20, 25-27, 29, 33 and 34. Regarding claim 36, Duffield recites multi-compartment sealed containers and therefore reads on the limitation of an additional sealing means recited in claim 36.

Response to Arguments

14. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 19, 20, 25-27, 29, 33, 34 and 36 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHELE JACOBSON whose telephone number is (571)272-8905. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8:30 AM-7 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rena Dye can be reached on (571)272-3186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Michele L. Jacobson
Examiner /M. J./
Art Unit 1794

/Rena L. Dye/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1794